

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please replace paragraph 1 with:*

This is a continuation of US Patent Application 09/973,693. This application claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/240,464 filed October 13, 2000 entitled "Composite Packet-Switching over WDM by Transparent Photonic Slot Routing". This application further claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/239,766 filed October 12, 2000 entitled "High-Capacity Packet-Switched Ring Network".

*Please replace paragraph 2 with:*

The present invention relates generally to optical communications systems and in particular to composite packet-switching over WDM using transparent slot routing. A composite packet is a signal, treated as a unit of information, constrained to within a chosen time interval such as a time slot, on a communication means such as a fiber or a port, that is constituted from a preselected plurality of signals, each of which is a digital signal that is modulated onto a carrier, where the carriers of the plurality of signals all have different wavelengths. A partial composite packet is constituted from less than the preselected plurality of signal but otherwise is the same as a composite packet. The photonic slot routing ring networks use a novel packet stacking technique to add or drop packets, which are simultaneously time and wavelength division multiplexed.